

REMARKS

I. Claims 1-20 and 28-34

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-20 and 28-34.

II. Independent Claim 21

Independent Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,276,644 to Pascucci et al. Independent Claim 21 recites a memory cell comprising temperature-dependent behavior and a current sensing amplifier that compares a current reference to current sensed back from the memory cell during a read operation to determine whether the memory cell is programmed. To clarify the claim, Applicants have amended independent Claim 21 to recite a temperature-dependent reference current source comprising a plurality of memory cells that have the same temperature-dependent behavior as the memory cell. Each of the plurality of memory cells generates a current when a voltage is applied to the plurality of memory cells, and the temperature-dependent reference current source generates a current reference from an average of the currents generated by the plurality of memory cells.

Such a temperature-dependent reference current source is not taught in Pascucci et al. As a first matter, there is no teaching that the single memory cell that is used to generate the reference current in Pascucci et al. has the same temperature-dependent behavior as the memory cell being observed, as recited in amended Claim 21. Also, since only a single memory cell is used to generate the reference current in Pascucci et al., Pascucci et al. necessarily does not teach a temperature-dependent reference current source that generates a current reference from an average of currents generated by a plurality of memory cells.

Because Pascucci et al. fails to teach each and every element of amended independent Claim 21, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of independent Claim 21 and its dependent claims.

III. Request for Initialed 1449 Form

Applicants have not yet received an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 Form that accompanied the First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed July 20, 2004. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have attached another copy of that Form herewith.

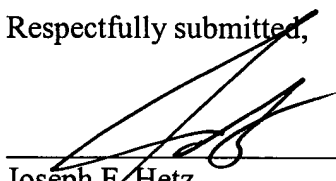
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide Applicants with an initialed copy of the Form with the next communication.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

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Respectfully submitted,



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